

A

## REVIEW

OF THE

## STATE

OF THE

## BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, February 10. 1709.

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WE are now enquiring, what Evidence of Guilt was obtain'd against the Persons apprehended in *Scotland*, and consequently why they were apprehended—While these Gentlemen were in Custody, I took the Freedom to examine into, and shew the Reasonableness of a Government being empower'd in Cases of such imminent Danger, to take up and secure the Persons, of all such whom they have any Reason to suspect—And tho' the Speech hints, that we shall be more careful of the *Habeas Corpus* Bill for the future; yet I must say, her Majesty by the Laws of *Scotland* might have done all that was done, tho' the Act of Parliament here for suspending the said *Habeas Corpus* Act, so far as related to that Case, had not

pass'd—The very *Habeas Corpus* Act in *Scotland* having this Exception in it, in Case of imminent Danger of Invasion, which I think, no Body will say, was not the very Case here.

It remains then only to enquire, whether the Persons apprehended were not such, as either being profess'd *Jacobites*, or profess'd *Papists*, or profess'd Opposers of the Union, the Queen might think, ought to be secur'd on such an Occasion; I do not say any thing to Prejudice of particular Persons, nor do I design it, nor is there Occasion for it—If the Gentlemen taken up were to turn the Tables, and the Turn their own, they would have done the same; and having frequent Occasion to converse with some of them, while they were in Custody, they would

would very honourably own it——  
As the Danger then declin'd, and no Evidence of Personal Guilt appearing, these Gentlemen were discharg'd, some upon Bail, some upon Parol——And now the Complainers would raise a Dust at the Affair two Ways, and by two Sorts of People.

One Sort will have it, that unless there had been Proof, they should not have been taken up at all, which is contrary to Reason and the known Practice in all Nations.

Another Sort will have it be, that because they were taken up, and are let go again, therefore the Government has not done their Duty in sufficiently discouraging Invaders.

Now, 'tis an Enquiry may yet be made, whether there was sufficient Evidence to convict them or no? I mean those who were try'd, *which some say there was*, and that the Queen had not Justice done her, which, if true, deserves a very smart Enquiry; and let my Lord C. . . . answer it; I leave that for the present, and take Notice only of this, which might in some Measure answer the Case.

The Invasion was an abortive Project, it foundered at Sea; as we say of a Ship that is overset or sunk, so the Project was overset and sunk, and the Mine blew up, before it could take Effect; and the *French* were so far in the right not to land at all, since they could not land at the Place expected; for now, as they themselves boast, their Friends are not discover'd, and the Design, say the *Jacobites*, keeps cold.

It is true, that we are the more in the dark as to legal Prosecution, but not at all in the dark as to probable and rational Conjecture; the People are known, tho' their overt Acts do not yet appear: Tho' the Encouragement they have yet met with has not made them show themselves enough to have the Law take hold of them, yet they are sufficiently known to have the Government keep a watchful Eye over them, and be always ready to secure them upon every Alarm.

It is true also, that their Baffling the Law last time, makes their Party unsufferably

insolent, and their riotous and tumultuous Treatment of the Magistrates, Ministers, and People of *Scotland* in the Affair of the Church, especially in the *North of Scotland*, deserves very well the Correction of the Government, and I doubt not in Time will have it——I make no question, but first or last, these unpeaceable People will noose themselves, and the Law may lay its Iron Hands upon some of them by Way of Example; nor will the Government be always in a Condition to be bully'd and insulted by a Party of Men, who pretend in the Face of Authority to espouse a Foreign and Popish Pretender.

I do not therefore see so much evil Consequence attending the Insults and Rabbles of the *Jacobite* Party in *Scotland*; let them go on, they will certainly ruin themselves, and some time or other the Government will meet with them; they'll run their Cause out of Breath, and then they will sink under the Weight of their own Rashness——All such Things end so, Party-Madness has shewn it self always very happy in this, that it always did, as it ever will, overthrow it self.

But if you will enquire into the Danger of an Invasion, and the Encouragement the *French* have to make such another Attempt upon us, the Danger lies among our selves; the Heats, the Divisions of Parties in *Britain*, and above all, the pretended Uneasinesses between the Nations, are our Danger, and the Enemies Encouragement; these are daily and dilligently improv'd, and run up to a Height next to Madness by the *Jacobite* Interest in both Kingdoms, and by a Nose-led Party among us, who chime in with the exploded Principles of Tyranny and Passive Obedience, that suffer the Railery of the *Jacobites* with Delight, only because 'tis against those that cannot comply with their Extremes. From hence our *High Church* Men are grown so stupid, as to call suppressing *Jacobitism* by the Sham-Name of persecuting *Episcopacy*, to the Scandal of their own Principles; as if *Jacobitism* and *Episcopacy* were synonymous, as if the *High-Church* and the *Jacobite* were all of a Class, and to prosecute one, were to prosecute the other. This is so incongruous, and



and such Self-contradicting Stuff, that I wonder at our Church Men in *England*, especially our Clergy, that they can be so partial, that whereas they do not suffer a *Non-Furor* to show his Head in their Church, neither to enjoy a Benefice, or come into a Pulpit; and the very Author of the *Rebearsal* has laid aside his Gown and Cassock, and appears in a Lay-Habit; that these Gentlemen can call that Persecution in *Scotland*, which is only legally Deposing in *England*.

These are those wretched Sons of *I know not what Church*, neither ought any Church to own them, who profess themselves to espouse the *Jacobite* Interest, and openly appear for King *James VIII.* and yet to secure their Livings, and to preserve an Opportunity of debauching the poor abus'd People of this Nation; Take all the Oaths to the present Establishment, that the Government can invent, *Association, Abjuration*, 'tis all one, they'll swear any thing, and I doubt, they that swear any thing, will do any thing. These are the infamous Wretches of whom, as I said formerly, I know not what Name to give them; a *Non-Furant Jacobite*, a *Papist*, a *Frenchy-f'd* Anti-Revolutioner, is an honest Man compar'd to them; he is an open, fair, and honourable Enemy, and we are told by such what to expect from him; but the other is a Viper nourish'd in our Bosom, a Traytor in the Castle, a Mine under our Fortifications; and from such is this Nations Danger at this Time.

How many such as these we have now among our Clergy in *England*, is but too plain to need an Enquiry, tho' some pretend, we must take no Notice of them for Fear of the Church; but 'tis the Safety of the Church to detect them, they are the real Enemies of the Church, they have all along made it their Business to harangue the Gentry and People of *England* into Jealousies of the Queen's Fidelity to the Church, into Notions of the Bishops betraying their Trust, and the Church being in Danger, &c. How many of these Sons of the Altar have we now in *England*, who under all the solemn Bonds of Oaths and Abjurations are yet spreading the Poison of *Jacobitism* over this Nation, which joyn'd to their

scandalous Lives and open Immoralities, makes them a most contemptible Generation, and like the Sons of *Eliz.* make Men abhor the Offering of the Lord?

Nor am I concern'd at the Indignities of a most scandalous Writer, who regards neither Justice or Truth in his filling me an Enemy of the Church in this; I profess my self an Abhorrer of these Practices, and hope I shall ever be so, let them be in what Church they will, and I think, he is a Friend, not an Enemy, to the Church of *England*, that detects the scandalous Behaviour of these Priests; that the Governors of the Church may be rous'd to revive and restore a true Christian Discipline, and remove the scandalous and incorrigible out of the way; which would be the happiest Day the Church of *England* ever saw.

And therefore after all his Flourishes, and after all his Certificates, that he pretends to bring against a Story lately told of one of these Wretches, and how far he thinks fit to rake in this *Church-Lay-Stall*, he best knows—But before I can have any Return to the just Enquiry, I have made for the farther Particulars of the Story, let it be at *Durham* or where else it will, I undertake to bring forty Witnesses, if there is Occasion, that the very Man, this Story is told of, is a known, publick, shameless Blaphemer and Buffoon, to whom that wretched Execration of G—d d—mn him, the Shame and particular Scandal of this Nation, for none other in the World uses it, is familiar and common; and if this is not true, his general Character, even among Church as well Dissenter, is not true, and it would be difficult to converse in the Town he lives in, and not hear something of it—If it be a Disservice to the Church to detect such a Man, I am sorry for it. As to the scandalous Lives and abominable Practices of some of the rest of the same Cloth, in or near the Cathedral he names, since he extorts them, by affirming it is the best regulated in *England*; and since more Truth must be told to confirm the Truth already told, they shall see, it has not been hitherto restrain'd for Want of Matters of Fact——And tho' there is no doubt, this Railer will procure one Clergyman to vouch for another all

over the Nation; yet as he pretended in the Case of publick Judicatories in another Case, that their Testimony was not significant, so I shall thus far except, that no Testimony ought to be taken, but where the Person testifying is of a clear Reputation himself, and not subject to the same Scandals.——And since these Gentlemen force me to expose the Lewdness, Drunkenness and Oaths of the Clergy, let them have a Care they do not raise such a Stink, the Smell of which will cleave to their Reputation too close to be done away. And so stand clear, inferior Clergy, a clear Proof of Fact, and from You no Favour.

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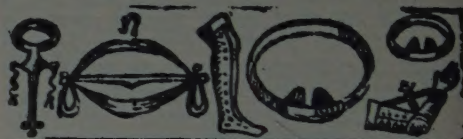
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